

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: May 19, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present: Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chairman Lucinda Vermeulen, Member Mary Brazie. Also present Tom Currier representing MassDOT, Mary McGurn, Juliette Haas, James Barnack MassDOT Engineer, Peter Valileo representing MassDOT, Jim Noe, Thomas Berkel, Marj Wexler, Bruce Bernstein.

Meeting is video and audio recorded.

Minutes of May 12, 2020 meeting were accepted as amended.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

James Barnack, Jacobs Engineering, presented a detour plan for when a culvert will be replaced on Route 23/41 near the Creamery Road intersection. The detour has traffic going down Route 71 to Creamery Road to Route 23 and vis-versa. The detour will be for 72 hours, 24/7 while the culvert is removed and a new one constructed. There are no homes impacted. Concern was expressed over the ability of trailer trucks to make the turn onto and off of Creamery at Route 71. Traffic volume in the area being closed is about 6300 vehicles a day with 9% of those being trailer trucks units. Concern was also expressed that traffic not be rerouted down Sheffield Road and especially trailer trucks. McGee was ruled out as a viable option due to its condition and being very narrow. Mr. Barnack and Mr. Currier, MassDOT representative, will return on June 2 after looking at the area of concern with a revised plan. An alternate route of Berkshire School Road to Route 41 to Route 23/41 may have to be considered. Mr. Currier thought that maybe MassDOT could rebuild the intersection of Creamery and Route 71 to accommodate the trailer trucks.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board unanimously voted to not approve a leave of absence for Jennifer Brown from her position of Part-time Police Officer, but to instead accept her resignation. If upon her return there is an open position in the Department the Board will reassess the situation and consider re-appointing her.

OLD BUSINESS:

Office Administrator Brazie will follow up with the Town of Mount Washington regarding the fire services fee.

Bruce Bernstein reported that the transportation grant has been filed. A preliminary report noted that it was an excellent proposal. The possibility of asking Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation for a refund for the last two of months of no service was considered. Vice-Chairman Vermeulen will work with Mr. Bernstein on applying for a grant for the Town to purchase its own transportation. Chairman McGurn is pursuing other options.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES/THINGS NOT TO FORGET:

COVID19-The Governor has announced a four phase re-opening of the Commonwealth. Phase 1 re-opens offices and parks. The Town must formulate re-opening plans. A working group is preparing a plan for the Tennis Courts. The Board will meet on Friday morning for the sole purpose of reviewing these plans.

Thomas Berkel and George McGurn has asked be on the Operations Subcommittee of the Consolidation Planning Committee.

The Town has been notified by Mass Broadband Institute that the Mass Technology Committee has accepted the plan presented by Fiber Connect to complete the broadband build out in both Monterey and Egremont and that an agreement will be signed shortly. Recognition was given to Jeff Lazarus and Rolfe Tessem for their incredible work towards this end. Some form of official recognition will take place at the Town's birthday celebration on August 16/. Due to the lack of clarity over how the 96% is being calculated the Town will not rescind the Broadband borrowing authorization just yet.

A planning session for the Town's birthday celebration is scheduled for June 9.

A representative from the Working Forest Initiative is meeting with key town officials at French Park on Friday, May 22 at 1pm.

The Human Resources Committee will meet to discuss issues surrounding the termination of a highway employee and the request for a raise from the Union.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The Board will meet jointly with the Finance Committee to finalize the budget on Thursday, May 21 at 10. The Board will recess this meeting to Friday, May 22 at 8am and will meet again on Tuesday, May 26 at 10am.

At 11:05 the Board recessed its meeting to Friday, May 22 at 8am.

Friday May 22, 2020

Meeting reconvened at 8:02am.

Present: Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chairman Lucinda Vermeulen, Member Mary Brazie. Also present were Tom Reynolds, Leliann Furcht, Juliette Haas, Chuck Ogden.

COVID-19 re-opening plans:

A draft employee self-certification form was reviewed and approved with edits.
(Document attached.)

A reopening plan for Town Hall was reviewed and approved with edits. Town Hall will remain locked with appointments being made for those who need to visit Town Hall.
(Document attached.)

A re-opening plan for the Tennis Courts was presented by a working group of users. The Courts will open on Wednesday, May 27 by reservation only.
(Document attached)

The Dog Park will remain closed for the time being and a working group of users put together to draft a re-opening plan.

The playground will remain closed and fencing will be put up around the equipment.

No reservations will be allowed at the Pavilion. According to Board of Health Director, the Pavilion is not considered an unconstrained outdoor area because it has a roof.

Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Tom Reynolds is putting up sanitizing units at key locations in the park and will clean and sanitize the bathrooms daily. He and Scott Fountain will continue to monitor the park regularly. Police details at the park will expand to weekdays and continue on weekends.

Mary Brazie will establish a plan for the riding ring which will include reservations and restrictions to one family unit at a time.

Tom Reynolds reported that there is already signage at the community gardens limiting to one gardener at a time and the gate is locked so that only gardeners can get in. All water cans are marked so they are not shared.

The little league field, softball field and basketball court will stay closed to organized games though open for families to use.

Lesliann presented a plan for curbside pickup at the Library beginning June 1. The restroom will remain closed to the public. The parking lot will be marked to designate 6' apart for patrons.
(Document attached.)

Meeting adjourned at 9:07am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.